

Letter to a Corbyn supporter
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Where now
for the left?



A new war? >>Pages 2 and 17

Don't
bomb
Syria



Refugees are
welcome here

National day of action, Sat 12 Sept >>Page 2

London: Assemble 12 noon Marble Arch for march to Downing St



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Refugees in Calais protesting last Saturday

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

OPEN THE BORDER

TORIES OUT, REFUGEES IN

ORDINARY PEOPLE across Europe have reacted with horror to the plight of refugees fleeing the Syrian civil war and other conflicts—and sent solidarity. David Cameron reacted with callous cynicism.

At first he held firm against letting in any. Britain, the world's ninth richest country, supposedly couldn't afford to take in more than a tube carriage full of desperate refugees.

After people campaigned and more than 400,000 signed a petition to do more, Cameron was forced to shift gear. But his new plan is an

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● Report from Calais
Pages 10&11

● More on the crisis
Pages 2, 4&5 and 17



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'Show me bodies floating in water, play violins and show me skinny people looking sad. I still don't care.'

Katie Hopkins from column in April used to promote the Sun newspaper until the ad was deleted last week

'The father sent them on that boat so the father could get dental treatment'

Cory Bernardi, Australian senator, criticising Aylan Kurdi's father for fleeing Turkey

'Idea. Why no welcome refugees and expell an equivalent number of Eastern Europeans to make space?'

Ex Labour MP Austin Mitchell—with some errors

'Assorted hand wringing lefty greeny types making political capital out of this'

Bristol's only Ukip city councillor Michael Frost shows his humanity over the refugee crisis



Tories' Syrian crisis solution – murder by remote control

by SIMON BASKETTER

THE TORIES' solution to the Syrian crisis is assassination.

On Monday of this week David Cameron announced the killing in August of Reyaad Khan from Cardiff and Ruhul Amin from Aberdeen.

They were killed by a remote control drone operated from a Lincolnshire airbase.

Cameron claimed six terrorist attempts to attack Britain had been foiled in the past year.

He accused Khan and Junaid Hussain from Birmingham of plotting to attack public commemorations over the summer and to kill the queen.

Strike

Hussain was killed in Syria three days after Khan, in a US drone strike.

"There was a terrorist directing murder on our streets," Cameron said. "We took this action because there was no alternative."

It had to be a British bomb

to "protect the national interest".

The evidence to justify this is of course a secret.

The government said the details of the Attorney General's legal justification won't be published. It was the same excuse used by Tony Blair's government over the legal justification for the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

The intelligence services that wrote the dodgy dossier

on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq were in charge of the operation. And the same intelligence services said that Reyaad Khan had been killed in July.

Cameron made much of uncovered plots. The plots were in fact revealed in the Sun newspaper by one of its far from reliable undercover operations.

The Tory defence secretary Michael Fallon said that

Cameron had approved a list of suspects who could now be killed in Syria. In truth the British government has said it has the right to kill its own citizens abroad at will.

There need be no trial and no proven guilt.

The Tories lost a vote on launching military action in Syria in 2013.

Pledged

In October last year Cameron pledged that there would be no military operations conducted in Syria.

That same month Fallon said that RAF drones "are not authorised to use weapons in Syria; that would require further permission".

Yet in July this year Cameron's spokesman admitted he knew that British pilots had flown in Syrian airspace.

Fallon has said a "handful" of RAF pilots were embedded with US forces.

Of course British governments have lied and have assassinated people before.

The Tories are cynically, slowly pushing for more military intervention in Syria.

And if that means murder by remote control, so be it.



The International Socialist Tendency, which includes the Socialist Workers Party in Britain, has produced a statement on the European refugee crisis.

It says, "We reject the racism directed towards those seeking to enter Europe. We call for the borders to be opened, for the humanitarian needs of the refugees to be met and for safe passage to be afforded to them to their chosen destination.

"We condemn the policies of Fortress Europe."

The full statement is at bit.ly/1JPhfdT

What you can do in your workplace

AT MANY workplaces across Britain people have collected money or materials for refugees.

Trade unionists in the south west of England plan a day of action where people can collect money, hold meetings and show their support for refugees.

Download a "Refugees are welcome here" poster from bit.ly/1itH1oI and take a picture with you and your workmates. Send it to info@standupforracism.org.uk and share on social media with the hashtag #refugeeswelcome

TASTELESS HEADLINE OF THE WEEK



The Sun on Sunday newspaper uses any opportunity to raise the case for war.

Rupert Murdoch's title ran this last week. It was arguing we must bomb Syria in memory of Aylan Kurdi, the drowned three year old Syrian refugee.



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Migrants across Europe defy cops and racist rules

by DAVE SEWELL

THE REFUGEES shut out to die by Fortress Europe have refused to go quietly. Borders were temporarily opened last week as anti-migrant governments tried and failed to hold them back.

And the refugees have inspired a wave of solidarity, as working class Europeans defied their rulers' racism to give support and welcome them.

Hundreds and then thousands of people—many of them fleeing the Syrian civil war—walked down the motorway from Budapest in Hungary to Vienna in Austria on Friday of last week.

Around 8,000 have now arrived in Germany, whose government has said it will accept 800,000 Syrian asylum seekers.

The Hungarian government has been among the most vicious in its persecution of refugees. But it had to let them through to avoid traffic accidents.

Previously it had halted trains out of Budapest to trap refugees in the Keleti train station.

Kasem, a Palestinian living in Budapest, told Socialist Worker, "The situation here is very difficult, with many families waiting to travel on, mainly to Germany."

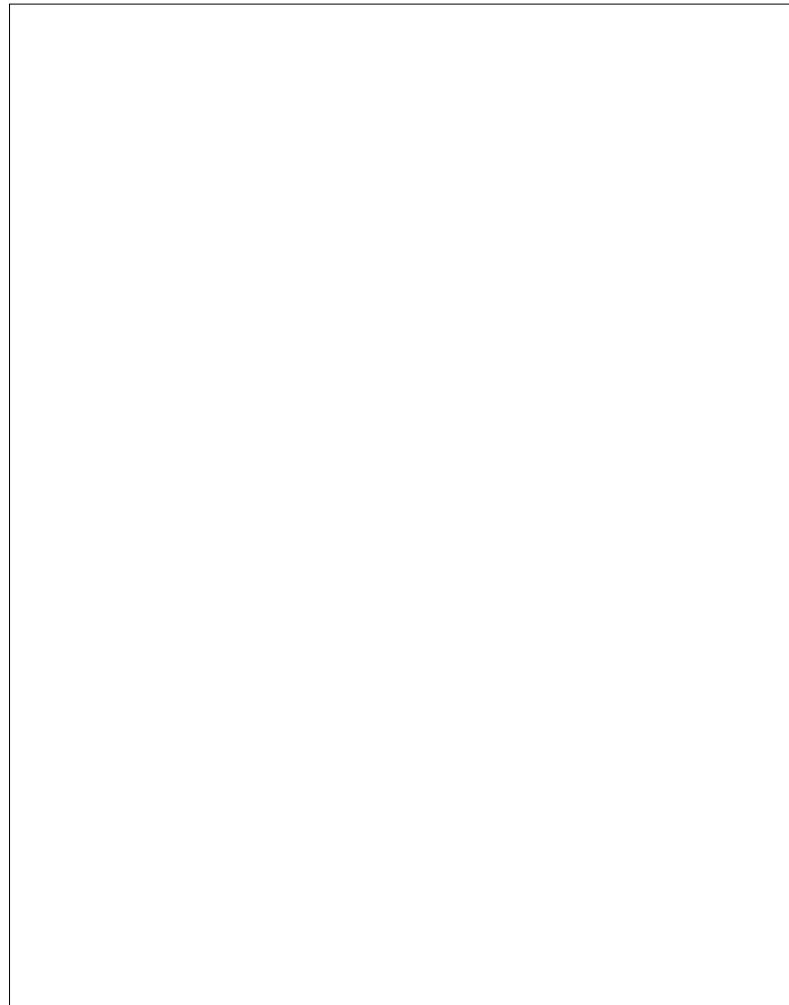
"There are children, old people, disabled people, tired, under-nourished.

Cold

"They sleep on the floor, they can't take a bath, there is only cold water and very few toilets. The migrants aren't given any information."

Hundreds were put on a train they were told was heading to Austria—but was actually diverted to a camp in Hungary. But they broke out and joined the exodus to Austria.

Many of these were the same people who broke through the Greek-Macedonian border last month.



MIGRANTS IN Hungary march to Austria

Some of them were part of a revolution in Syria before it was drowned in blood by dictator Bashar al-Assad—and clearly some of its spirit of defiance lives on.

On the Austrian side, a convoy of hundreds of cars and buses travelled into Hungary to pick up refugees last Sunday—defying laws on "trafficking" that could see them jailed.

Train stations across Germany and Austria have been rocked by celebrations as people turn out to welcome refugees.

In Vienna Syrians led a musical celebration. In Munich the crowd sang, "Say it loud, say it clear, refugees are welcome here."

David Albrich, a leading member of Austrian socialist organisation Neue

Linkswende, told Socialist Worker, "For weeks working class people have been substituting for the government to support the refugees. And they are blaming the government and its racist policies for the crisis.

"The government tried and failed to divert all the blame onto the traffickers.

Laws

"It has been criminalising people who support the refugees—for example by using fly-tipping laws against people who take food to the camps.

"But now there is a very rebellious mood, and some of the biggest anti-racist protests we have seen in years."

Far right groups have attacked refugees in parts of Hungary and Germany.

And politicians are determined to limit their concessions to a one-off. They are trying to stop the solidarity with Syrians encompassing other refugees and migrants too.

They want to close the borders behind the refugees they have had to let in.

Police on the Greek island of Lesvos beat one refugee unconscious on Sunday of last week as the government sent in troops. More than 10,000 have now been brought by ferry to the Greek mainland. But those who remain are protesting to make sure they are not left behind.

News that Czech police were dragging refugees off trains and writing numbers on their arms horrified the world with its echoes of the Holocaust.

Despite the European Union's rhetoric of international solidarity, the refugee crisis has exposed its true face. It has built walls around Europe's borders to keep desperate migrants out.

Real solidarity means standing alongside the refugees who take on its racist rules.

Open the border

>>Continued from page 1

insult. Britain is to take in 20,000 Syrians over the next five years—fewer than Germany took in last weekend alone.

There were even reports that refugee children could be deported on their 18th birthdays.

Whether or not such rules do apply to these refugees, the fact that they exist at all exposes Cameron's hollow boast that "this is a country of extraordinary compassion".

And cruel Cameron is trying to draw arbitrary lines between Syrians and Africans, between children and parents. He says it's "vital" not to let in "migrants in search of a better life".

Bloody

The Tories are also trying to use the refugee crisis to drum up support for more bloody wars.

But Cameron is also on the defensive.

The refugees' determination and the movement in their support represent a challenge to the repressive system of immigration controls that governments use to divide and rule.

Three year old Aylan Kurdi was not the first child to drown needlessly on Europe's doorstep.

But after pictures of his dead body sent shudders around the world, his father made the plea, "let him be the last".

We can stop the carnage. But it will take a mass movement to defy Cameron—and the inhumane system he represents.

Wherever you are on Saturday, take to the streets in anger—and keep going until Cameron's blockade is lifted and refugees are allowed to come in safety.

There's more online...

- For news and analysis as it happens
- Reports and pictures from picket lines and protests from Britain...and all over the world

SOCIALISTWORKER.CO.UK



'The police treat us like we're animals'

FARID HAS come more than 3,000 miles from Syria to the "jungle" in the French port town Calais. He spoke to Socialist Worker about the refugees' struggle to find safety.

"We ran away from death, only to find death waiting for us on the journey," he said.

"I came from Syria through Turkey, then onto Greece in a small dinghy. It's very dangerous.

"So are the police.

"When you walk up from Greece to Macedonia they hit you.

"And in Serbia they pepper spray you in the face—just like the French police do in Calais when you try and get on the train to Britain.

"The police act like they are dealing with animals, not people.

FIGURE IT OUT

4.5 million

People have fled Syria since the uprising began in 2011, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

3.9 million

Syrian refugees are in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq

293,779

Syrians have applied for asylum inside the EU since 2011

In Hungary they put me in prison for two days, and wouldn't give me food or water.

"I wasn't allowed to go to the toilet for eight hours, and it was so cold in the cell.

"When I got out I paid a trafficker to take me to Germany, but he lied and left me in Austria. I had to hide from the police, and have walked the rest of the way.

"The authorities always say, 'You're in a European country now, you shouldn't keep going.'

"But I need to continue my studies, and I can't do that in a country where I don't speak the language.

"That means I need to get to Britain."

IN THIS WEEK

2005

Israeli troops leave Gaza Strip

ISRAEL withdrew all of its soldiers and settlers from the Gaza Strip, ending 37 years of occupation.

But Israel continued to control borders and crossing points, and launched its blockade of Gaza in 2007.



Why is this happening and how can we stop it?

As Europe's refugee crisis deepens, so does debate on how to solve it. **Nick Clark** answers your questions

Why are there so many migrants?

THE BIGGEST group of migrants coming to Europe at the moment are Syrians. They are fleeing the brutal civil war that developed after an uprising that began in 2011 was crushed.

Half the population of Syria have been forced from their homes.

Migrants are also escaping the authoritarian regime in Eritrea.

The Western-led wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya have created millions of refugees. There are nine civil wars across the globe where people have been driven out.

Other refugees are escaping poverty in countries where capitalism has wreaked havoc.

What has Britain done to help?

THE BRITISH government has been forced to shift its position. Under pressure, the Tories are now promising to accept more refugees into Britain.

David Cameron announced on

Monday that Britain will let 20,000 Syrian refugees in over the next four and a half years.

And chancellor George Osborne said last Sunday that money from the £12 billion foreign aid budget would be used to help house them.

The fact that the Tories have suddenly found money and resources to help refugees exposes the lie that Britain can't take any more migrants.

But even now they are fighting to make sure they do as little as possible.

Cameron's figure of 20,000 evens out to just about 4,000 refugees a year. That's half a percent of the 800,000 refugees Germany has pledged to accept this year alone.

Why do they keep moving in Europe?

POLITICIANS DON'T see why the freedom of movement enjoyed by the rich should extend to those in need.

They argue that refugees should seek asylum in the first "safe" country they arrive in.

Many do. The majority of refugees don't get as far as Europe, let alone

Would it help if we bombed Syria?

THE CRISIS has led to fresh calls for the British government to launch airstrikes against Isis in Syria.

But Syrian refugees aren't just escaping Isis.

The Syrian regime of dictator Bashar al-Assad is responsible for much more destruction—and US-led airstrikes have already caused hundreds of civilian deaths.

War and Western-backed action against the Arab revolutions created Isis in the first place.

More bombs and intervention can only make things worse.

Bombing to bring peace?



DESPERATE MIGRANTS in Calais face armed cops and razor wire fences. Is there a better way?

Britain. But it isn't always possible.

When three year old Kurdish child Aylan Kurdi drowned trying to enter Europe, right wingers asked why his family hadn't stayed in Turkey.

But Syrian refugees in Turkey aren't allowed to work—and Kurds face brutal repression.

Some refugees want to live in Britain because they speak English, or because they have family here.

Many migrants in the Calais "jungle" have nowhere else to go. European states encourage migrants to move by making the asylum process as difficult as possible.

Violence from police or racist gangs can also force migrants to move on.

Is Britain too poor to take them all?

IT'S NONSENSE that Britain can't afford to offer support to more migrants.

Chancellor George Osborne has just wasted another £500 million on Trident nuclear weapons, part of a £100 billion total Trident bill.

Big firms avoid billions in tax.

Britain's billionaires have seen their wealth more than double since the recession, with the richest 1,000 now controlling a total of £547 billion. These resources could be used to support far more people.

Top Tories David Cameron and Theresa May posing after an immigration raid

Are immigration controls racist?

POLITICIANS AND the media talk about immigration controls so much it's no surprise that most people think they must be necessary.

But all immigration controls encourage the idea that there are certain groups of people who shouldn't live here. And that usually means people from eastern Europe, or black and Asian people.

This gives cops and bosses a green light to discriminate against them. It paves the way for racist

attacks on people who "don't belong in Britain".

Immigration controls are also to blame for the horrors of detention centres such as Yarl's Wood.

They are designed to divide and rule—and stop us fighting back against the rich and the bosses.

Trillions of pounds, euros, dollars and yen move round the world at the touch of a computer key every day.

Why can't people move too? Bosses move their resources, close factories and destroy jobs without any barriers. Workers ought to have the right to move anywhere.

For more on this argument turn to page 11



PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

But are they all 'real' refugees?

MUCH OF the recent debate has focused on the distinction between "refugees" and "migrants".

And it's certainly right to emphasise that most of the people currently trying to get into Europe are fleeing war and repression.

Some people have even argued that the term "migrant" is dehumanising and must be avoided.

But it's important not to fall into the trap of implying that some migrants are more deserving than others.

This can be convenient for some politicians who accept that we should let some refugees in—but keep up the barriers that caused the crisis.

But migration is perfectly natural.

There is nothing wrong with wanting to move in search of a better life.

People should have the right to live and to work where they want—for whatever reason.

What can we do to support them?

ALL OVER Europe people have been supporting refugees by providing supplies.

This is important and must continue. But the way to stop the crisis is to open the borders and let the refugees in. The harder our rulers make it for them to travel, the more they are driven to take more dangerous routes or use traffickers.

The European Union has put walls on its land borders and threatens airlines with fines for carrying refugees.

If restrictions were lifted no one would drown trying to cross the Mediterranean. Join protests saying "Refugees are welcome" near you.



A refugee in Calais

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

LET'S ORGANISE TO SEIZE THIS MOMENT OF HOPE

THERE IS a sea change sweeping through British politics. The cruel scapegoating of refugees has briefly paused.

At least some of the agonising truth about why people come to Britain has been revealed to millions.

Of course, not every racist has disappeared. But many ordinary people have shown solidarity and sympathy towards refugees—and disgust at our rulers' callousness.

We have to seize the moment. Wars fuelled by Britain and its allies have forced millions of refugees to flee.

Now the Tories, and most of Europe's rulers, are cynically trying to use their suffering to justify still more war in Syria.

And they will hope to soon go back to lies, vicious laws and a policy of no entry for migrants.

We must march, argue and organise to make sure this doesn't happen.

The demonstrations this weekend are crucial. And then there needs to be continuing action in every university, college, workplace and area.

We need to break down the barriers that can divide working

class people—at work, where they live, and on protests and picket lines.

This moment of hope must become a permanent war against racism and Islamophobia, and for the right of people to move as freely as money moves.

Trade unions could give a strong signal by offering free membership to all refugees and migrants.

Anti-racism must be a strong element of the TUC demonstration in Manchester on 4 October. We need to build that demonstration alongside our work in support of refugees.

And another complacent certainty is crumbling. It has

become a commonplace idea that austerity is the only viable way forward.

But millions of people across Britain will cheer if anti-austerity candidate Jeremy Corbyn is elected Labour leader on Saturday.

Socialist Worker does not think the Labour Party is the answer to the problems we face. It won't confront the system that brings war and poverty.

But the support for Corbyn shows the potential for resistance.

The Tories were smug after the general election. They thought they had crushed all opposition and could enjoy five years of untrammelled class enrichment.

They were confident that the bitterness in society could always be turned on scapegoats, with Muslims and migrants obvious targets. And Labour was expected to become even more right wing.

Now people are marching across Britain to say, "Refugees welcome here". A representative of what the right call the "loony left" is poised to be Labour leader.

Racism and austerity are not separate issues. We need to confront both, and redouble the battle for a socialist future where people come before profit.



Racism and austerity are not separate issues. We need to confront both

THE EU CRACKS DEEPEN

DAVID CAMERON suffered his first defeat in the House of Commons on Monday of this week just four months after the general election.

Some 33 right wing Tory rebels teamed up with Labour and the Scottish National Party to defeat a government amendment to its European Union (EU) Referendum Bill. It included two former cabinet ministers.

That's bigger than the first rebellions Tory prime minister John Major faced over the EU in

the 1990s. Then 26 backbenchers dissented during the first EU Maastricht Treaty vote and 22 against the European Communities Bill in 1992.

The vote shows up the splits in the Tory party.

A poll last week for the first time suggested that a slim majority of voters support leaving the EU.

Cameron would not survive a referendum defeat, which would plunge the Tory government into crisis.

We have to make sure that our

side benefits from it—not the Tory right and Ukip.

That means putting a case against the EU based on solidarity with workers and migrants.

Europe's brutal repression of migrants has shown that the EU is not a defender of refugees' rights or a bulwark against racism.

Meanwhile, the EU remains determined to crush resistance to austerity from Greek workers.

Cameron's defeat shows the weaknesses that our struggles can take advantage of.

SOCIALIST REVIEW

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ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS

The ‘China dream’ is rapidly falling apart

IT'S BEEN a dramatic summer—Greece, the European refugee crisis, Jeremy Corbyn. But the big story for the world economy has been the collapse of the Chinese stock market. Since peaking in June, falling share prices have wiped £3 trillion off its value.

In some ways, this isn't a big deal. The Chinese stock market isn't like those in Wall Street, the City of London, or even Hong Kong. It's dominated by trade in the shares of large Chinese companies, most of which are still state-owned. So it is still relatively insulated from the ups and downs of global financial markets.

Its most important function is political. China's extraordinary economic growth has been driven by very high levels of investment, which currently make up nearly half of national income.

Ordinary Chinese households have helped to finance this. They have to save to cover needs such as healthcare and education, but the state-owned banks pay them very low interest on their savings.

One form of compensation the Chinese government has offered them is the chance to make much bigger returns on their savings by betting on rising share prices. Day traders on middle incomes are very active in the stock market.

In April, the People's Daily newspaper dismissed fears that a stock market bubble was developing. “The capital markets can be a true reflection of the ‘China dream’,” it declared.

The “China dream” is one of the main slogans of president Xi Jinping. So when shares started to fall, the government intervened to prop the market up. This has now gone as far as punitive measures aimed at those accused of talking prices down.

The government response points to a major contradiction in the policies of the current Chinese leadership. On the one hand, Xi has driven to centralise power in his hands in a manner unprecedented since the days of Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s and 1990s. He has waged an anti-corruption campaign both to increase his popularity and eliminate party opponents.

Endorse

On the other hand, Xi has continued to endorse Deng's strategy of relying more on market mechanisms than on state control and integrating China in the world economy. In line with this, on 11 August the Chinese authorities announced they were allowing the renminbi currency to float more freely against the dollar.

The long-term aim behind this move was to allow the renminbi to become an international reserve currency competing with the dollar and the euro.

The International Monetary Fund has said that it might award the renminbi this status next year, but only if government controls were removed. China's rulers also hoped the renminbi would fall slightly against the dollar, boosting exports.

Instead, amid the stock market panic, it dropped like a stone, forcing the authorities to spend £130 billion to limit the renminbi's devaluation.

Behind these political vacillations lies a bigger question. Xi, like his predecessors, is supposedly committed to moving away from the high-investment, high-export model that has made China the second biggest economy in the world. This is meant to mean focusing more on increasing domestic consumption and living standards.

But this hasn't happened yet. China's growth since the Great Recession of 2008-9 has been driven by investment financed by growing debt, which has risen from 130 to 280 percent of national income in this period.

The stock market isn't the only place where a bubble has developed—real estate is another.

The Chinese leadership is trying to wean the economy off investment and borrowing without precipitating a recession. The result has been slower growth. This has affected especially other “emerging market” economies in the Global South that had grown by exporting food and raw materials to China.

The stock market crash doesn't in itself represent an economic crisis. But it shows how the situation can escape the control of even as authoritarian a regime as Xi's. And it's beginning to sink in to governments and businesses everywhere that China's troubles mean the world economy will continue to stagnate.

Over 130,000 people back the National Gallery strikers

The National Gallery workers are entering their second month of all-out strike, reports Nick Clark

WORKERS AT the National Gallery have been on all-out strike for more than a month. The trade union movement now needs to throw its full weight behind the strike.

The strikers' morale is high. Striking workers and their supporters protested in central London on Thursday of last week, as they handed in a petition to gallery bosses and Tory culture minister Ed Vaizey.

It calls for the National Gallery to remain a public service and for the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee to review the running of the gallery. Over 133,000 people signed it.

Some 100 people gathered outside the gallery in Trafalgar Square to hand bosses a copy of the petition.

They then marched down Whitehall to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to hand in another copy addressed to Vaizey.

The protest came on the gallery workers' 80th strike day in their fight against privatisation.

Bosses outsourced 300 jobs to private security firm Securitas last month.

But the PCS union members responded with an indefinite walkout, which has closed at least half of the gallery's rooms.

Workers are striking to maintain their terms and conditions before Securitas takes over in November.

Labour leadership



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **Donate to the strike fund—Sort code 08 60 01, account no. 20169002. Cheques to PCS Culture Media and Sport Association, c/o PCS North West Region, Jack Jones House, 1 Islington, Liverpool L3 8EG**

- **Sign the online petition at bit.ly/1kELiGx**

- **Go to the picket lines at the gallery, every day 9am-11am**

NATIONAL GALLERY workers on the march last week

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

candidate Jeremy Corbyn and left wing Labour MP John McDonnell both sent messages of support to Thursday's protest.

And Guardian newspaper columnist Polly Toynbee joined the protest to hand the petition to gallery bosses.

Petition

The huge petition will help pile the pressure on new gallery director Gabriele Finaldi. Talks between Finaldi and the PCS are ongoing.

Bosses sacked PCS rep Candy Udwin on trumped up charges of “gross misconduct” in May.

Candy told the protest, “We are pleased that we have some talks progressing here at the gallery—that is a big step forward.

If Dr Finaldi thought that it was all going to be over, I'm afraid he got it wrong. We're still here—we're still out.

We're still fighting against the privatisation but also for guarantees for the staff and for my reinstatement.”

She added, “The responsibility for the mess that is the National Gallery—the demoralisation of the staff and the anger at how it is run—lies with Ed Vaizey.

The green light for the attacks on our union and victimisation of our reps comes from this government.”

We're sure that the privatisation was about attacking our union and our rights.

“But it hasn't stopped us from fighting.

“We are going to stay out until we win.”

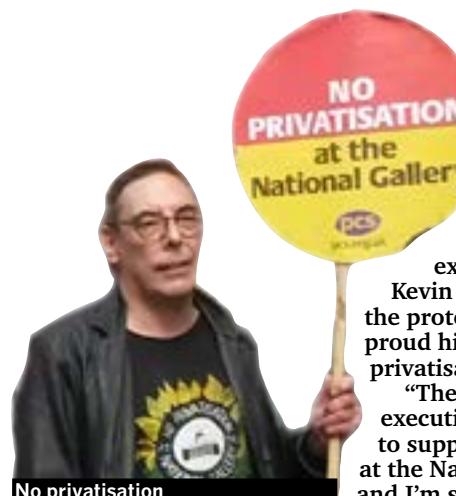
TUC leaders should launch a solidarity campaign

STRIKERS ON the picket line on each day are joined by delegations of other workers.

For instance last Thursday members of the CWU union brought with them a £250 donation to the strike fund and promises to raise more.

Large donations also came from the Prospect union, the senior civil servants' FDA union and South East region TUC.

Clara Paillard, PCS union culture sector president said, “We are



still there after months of struggle and battle.

“It has inspired people.”

PCS national executive member

Kevin McHugh told the protest, “PCS has a proud history of fighting privatisation.

The national executive will continue to support the dispute at the National Gallery and I'm sure we'll be able

to raise it at this month's TUC conference.”

The attack on the National Gallery workers is an attack on every trade unionist.

Their victory would be a victory for every trade unionist.

Importantly the union leaders need to do their part.

As they gather at the TUC this weekend the least they should do is call a day of action in support of the National Gallery workers' strike.

Protest marks breakthrough for anti-racists in Rotherham

by SADIE ROBINSON in Rotherham

SOME 400 anti-racists gathered in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, last Saturday to oppose the Nazi Britain First group and remember a murdered Muslim man.

Many felt the demonstration, boosted by a big turnout from Asian people, was a breakthrough in the battle against racism in the town.

Protesters gathered in All Saints Square. They paid their respects to Mushin Ahmed, an 81 year old Muslim who died recently after being attacked in Rotherham.

Britain First drew no more than 170 to a racist march.

Local resident Shakoor told Socialist Worker, "This is not just about the death of Mushin Ahmed. It's about a racist ideology."

"I'm Rotherham born and bred and I can feel that the racists are emboldened. But we're not going to be divided."

Attacked

Haroon Rashid grew up a few minutes from where Mushin was attacked. He told Socialist Worker, "All Mushin was doing was going to mosque. I've lived all my life in Rotherham and everyone got on. People are shocked at the attack."

Racist and fascist groups descended on Rotherham after a 2014 report into child abuse in the town. They want to blame this on Islam and whip up racism.

Unite Against Fascism (UAF) called the protest against Britain First and it was backed by community groups.

Sixteen year old Haleem told Socialist Worker it was time that Muslims spoke out. "We're used to our elders telling us to stay at home," he said. "My relatives told me not to come today. Some said it wouldn't make any difference.

"But they should see what we can do when we stand united."

Muslims, councillors and trade

BACK STORY

Nazi groups are trying to use the Rotherham child abuse scandal to whip up racism

- They try to blame Islam for child abuse
- It has created an atmosphere that encourages racism in Rotherham
- Last month 81 year old Muslim man Mushin Ahmed died after an attack
- But many people feel last Saturday's protest was a turning point for local anti-racists

unionists addressed a rally in the square. Vakas Hussain from Muslim Youth said, "The life of a Muslim is worth less than the life of a non-Muslim. But there's no point being angry and not doing anything about it."

Maxine Bowler from Sheffield TUC told the crowd, "Every time the racists march here, racists gain confidence. We cannot allow this."

Police disgracefully facilitated the Nazis' march to the town hall and tried to provoke anti-racists by riding horses into the square.

But anti-racists will keep fighting. Rotherham council worker and Unison union member Iris told Socialist Worker, "We've had the English Defence League and Britain First calling us paedophiles.

"These people can't keep coming here and intimidating us. If the fascists take to the streets, we have to take to the streets."

● Around 800 people joined a UAF protest at Liverpool Lime Street station last Saturday. Nazi group National Action was forced to call off its march for the second time in three weeks because of growing opposition. Anti-fascists also outnumbered the Nazi British National Party in Croydon, south London, and the Berkshire Infidels in Slough last Saturday.

MPs debate assisted dying

MPS WERE set to debate a private members' bill on Friday of this week that would legalise assisted dying.

The bill, introduced by Labour MP Rob Marris, is similar to Lord Falconer's bill that ran out of time before the general election.

It allows people diagnosed as terminally ill with no hope of recovery to choose to end their own life with medical assistance. They must also be ruled medically capable of

making the decision.

The religious establishment has led the opposition to the bill. Every MP was sent a letter signed by a wide coalition of religious leaders calling on them to vote against it.

Campaigning by terminally ill people and their families helped get it on the agenda. But some disability activists fear it would lead to people being pressured to kill themselves.

For more on assisted dying see bit.ly/1KOYvVV



PEOPLE IN Rotherham march united against the Nazis last Saturday

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

Fair Play for Palestine demo in Wales shows solidarity movement is growing

UP TO 1,500 Palestine solidarity campaigners marched through Cardiff last Saturday as the Israeli football team played Wales in the Euro 2016 qualifiers.

The Palestine Solidarity Campaign and Red Card Israeli Racism, among others, called the protest to demand that football body Uefa suspends Israel.

Many of the protesters were Wales fans—but had joined the protest to say the match should not go ahead.

Some Wales fans were hostile, but others said they would chant for Palestinians inside the stadium.

Many had mixed feelings. One fan told Socialist Worker, "The protesters are right, but I think you should keep politics and football separate."

But Israel uses football to present itself as a legitimate state. Many protesters pointed to Israeli abuses of Palestinian footballers.

Isabel O'Hagan from the Bristol football team Easton Cowgirls told Socialist Worker, "The idea of

sport as separate from politics is wrong.

"We went over on a football tour to Palestine and saw how difficult it is for them to train because of the roadblocks and checkpoints.

"It's wrong for Israel to come here as if it is a normal state."

The Israeli embassy tried to put on an exhibition in Cardiff Central Library to coincide with the march.

Protest organiser Jeff Hurford told Socialist Worker, "It was a clear piece of propaganda about how Israeli Arabs have access to sports facilities."

"We organised a demonstration for the following Saturday—then Labour councillors got involved and shut it down.

"It was the quickest victory

we've ever had." These are signs of a growing Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign aimed at isolating Israel.

BDS scored a victory last week as fizzy drinks firm SodaStream announced it was pulling out of the occupied West Bank. Meanwhile, the United

Electrical Workers union in the US voted to back BDS.

Palestine solidarity campaigners in Britain were set to protest outside Downing Street at 11am on Wednesday of this week against a visit by Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Nick Clark in Cardiff



On the march

IN BRIEF

Turkey launches assault on Kurds

THE TURKISH military unleashed a savage assault against Kurdish targets on Monday of this week in the latest escalation of war by the Nato member.

F-16 and F-14 jets struck 13 times, allegedly against PKK Kurdish militants.

The PKK had earlier claimed to have killed 15 Turkish soldiers.

Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan has stepped up the attacks as an election looms. He hopes to push back the rise of the pro-Kurdish HDP party.

Some 150 million walk out in India

TENS OF millions of workers across India staged a one-day strike last week to protest at the pro-business policies of the Narendra Modi-led BJP government.

Strikers' demands included an improved minimum wage, the withdrawal of new anti-union laws and improved conditions for contract workers.

Unions said 150 million workers took part in the walkout.

Guatemala ruler thrown in prison

GUATEMALA'S president Otto Perez Molina resigned on Thursday of last week to face trial over corruption charges.

A mass movement of strikes and demonstrations had forced congress to strip him of his immunity from prosecution.

He is now in jail charged with "being part of a criminal organisation, with the purpose of defrauding the state".

He could also face prosecutions over human rights violations. Perez commanded a state death squad in 1982-3 and is accused of torture and murder.

March for health care in Galicia

UP TO 200,000 people marched against health privatisation in Vigo, capital of Galicia in the Spanish state, on Thursday of last week.

It was the biggest demonstration in the city's history, called by the local mayor and backed by trade unions and opposition parties.

A new private hospital is undermining the health system as a public service.

The death of a woman from an infection believed to have been picked up in hospital added to the sense of a crisis in Galicia's health service.

Greek workers vote with their feet ahead of poll

by DESPINA KARAYIANNI
in Thessalonica

WITH JUST days to go before a new election in Greece, the left wing Syriza party is rapidly losing ground.

Some polls even suggest the Tory New Democracy party could come first in the 20 September election.

The prospect of a coalition government seems ever more likely.

The return of old right wing politicians who were swept from office by Syriza's election victory in January is a chilling prospect.

But Syriza is committed to driving through worse austerity than the Tories ever did.

Syriza disoriented and demoralised its supporters by signing up to a new "memorandum" of austerity in exchange for a bailout of Greece's debt in July.

A referendum had rejected the deal.

Last week one of Syriza leader Alexis Tsipras's closest advisers became the latest to leave the party. Syriza's youth section also broke and called on supporters to vote anti-capitalist.

Former finance minister Yanis Varoufakis—who was almost as prominent in the Syriza government as Tsipras—called for votes against it.

He urged voters to back anyone other than the parties that backed the memorandum or the fascist Golden Dawn.

In practice this means a vote for the left opposition—the Communist Party, the Syriza split Popular Unity, or the anti-capitalist coalition Antarsya.

The movement against austerity returned to the streets last Saturday, with the first major demonstration since Tsipras' U-turn on cuts.

Streets

Up to 10,000 people marched in the streets of Thessalonica, Greece's second city.

Teachers, metro workers, public sector engineering staff, water workers facing privatisation and private sector workers all joined in.

School guard Manolis Stathopoulos told Socialist Worker, "We are demonstrating to make it clear that nothing has changed even though there was a change of government. The memorandum policies continue."

"We knew that the people the government negotiated with were not prepared to move an inch."

"We can stop the memorandum. We need to unite in a broad front of struggle inside each workplace and on the streets."



PART OF the march through Thessalonica last Saturday

PICTURE: GARETH JENKINS

Fight isn't over at ERT

THE ERT state broadcasting workers went into occupation to stop its closure three years ago.

The left government restored national broadcasting. But the workers have not given up the fight against their bosses.

Their union president Panayiotis Kalfayiannis told Socialist Worker, "Today I am demonstrating out of duty and ideological conviction."

"The duty is to society and working people, and the ideological conviction is

because our children have been made subordinates.

"The new memorandum is more unfair, harder and will prove a killer—more people will commit suicide."

"The Greek people together must revolt and take their fate into their hands to revive the hope which Tsipras and his mates consigned to the dustbin."

"All together—workers, unemployed, pensioners and, above all, youth must support anti-memorandum policies to end this subordination."



Syriza leader Alexis Tsipras

So the bulk of the demonstrators assembled separately, then marched in to create a mass unified march.

Many campaigners who have fought to close the environmentally disastrous Eldorado gold mine in Halkidiki, northern Greece, were there.

Their mass presence more than made up for the contingent from the pro-boss gold miners' union. GSEE leaders had mobilised it in the hope of countering the anti-memorandum left.

Young people marched alongside older trade unionists. Anti-racists and anti-fascists who have

fought to defend migrants and refugees were there too.

Around 2,500 people marched in a separate demonstration called by the Communist Party.

This had a large presence of sacked Coca Cola workers, who have organised a long-running boycott campaign.

Coca Cola workers' union leader Grigoris Papadopoulos told Socialist Worker that the memorandum "brought poverty, unemployment, shut factories and brought hunger wages".

He said, "The new memorandum is a continuation of the old one—and worse."

"We can stop it if all working class forces come together with the aim of popular power."

The protest showed that the anti-austerity left continues to shape the resistance.

The potential to beat austerity in Greece hasn't gone away. But Syriza's failure underlines that it can't be done through parliament.

Syriza tried to do a deal with undemocratic forces bent on driving through more attacks.

A programme that builds on the strengths of the movement can block these forces—and stop austerity.

On other pages...

Anti-racists join protesting refugees in Calais >> Pages 10&11

We need parliament

PANOS GARGANAS is wrong to say the left should not rely on parliament (Socialist Worker, 5 September).

If you ever want anything done to the slightest degree, you need to have the power to do it.

And you need parliamentary power in particular, unless there is a parallel political system we did not know about.

I am not saying that the current parliamentary system is great or that it should always be like that.

Movements can push things to a different direction. But they cannot legislate a new direction.

Only governments can do this.

Alex Galanos
on Facebook

No money for nukes

TRIDENT nuclear weapons are a disgraceful waste of money.

People are fleeing conflict in the Middle East fuelled by Western bombing and the war in Iraq.

But the Tories want to spend money on Trident to stay in Nato.

They want to keep old imperial alliances.

If they want to help people, they know what to do.

They say there's no money for benefits—but there's billions of pounds for Trident nuclear missiles.

Jeremy Corbyn has a fantastic record on opposing Trident and Nato—he needs to stick to it.

Saira Weiner
Manchester

Mental health cuts hit service users and staff

JUST OVER a month ago, I lost my care coordinator. I was given 15 minutes notice towards the end of my appointment that this was happening.

My community psychiatric nurse was told when he came into work the day before he saw me that his services were no longer needed by a letter left on his desk.

The mental health trust got rid of 350 staff that way on that day.



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Just a thought...

Can't wait for new book

I ENJOYED the interview with Judith Orr last week (Socialist Worker, 5 September).

I'm looking forward to reading her book *Marxism and Women's Liberation*.

Becky Townsend
South London

Don't call the Tories scum

PLEASE AVOID using the phrase "Tory scum" at the demo against the Tory party in Manchester on 4 October.

Our children will be there. Teach them how to have a respectful adult disagreement.

Improve your own reputation. Don't lose your dignity while the Tories are losing theirs.

Wendy Olsen
Manchester

Who drives wages down?

UKIP AND other racists say that refugees will drive down wages.

Actually, research shows that immigration makes little difference to wage levels.

What surveys do show is that wages and conditions are much better in trade union organised workplaces.

You don't hear our racist bosses say anything about that.

Duncan Brown
Glasgow

Taking charge of services

KEN OLENDE raised some interesting points about nationalisation of public services (Socialist Worker, 5 September).

Workers, and the people who use the services, must be in charge.

A genuinely radical proposal would of course be to extend such workplace democracy to private businesses too.

Graeme Kemp
Shropshire

We saw off the bigots

I JUST to want congratulate pro-choice activists in Lewisham, south London.

They have seen off anti-choice campaigners from harassing women outside our local clinic

Nathan Pettefar
South London

Vote for Burnham, not Labour

THE IMPACT of Jeremy Corbyn's campaign is great news. But it will be hard to turn round the tanker of anti-working class policies, including within the Labour Party.

Haringey Labour council, north London, is demolishing 4,000 council homes for developers to build places that local people can't afford.



Campaigning for Tusk in north London last May

Now Haringey Labour says investment must come from sell-offs, private building or rent increases.

Haringey recently doubled rents for some new council tenancies.

That's why we need a socialist electoral alternative to Labour.

Paul Burnham
Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition candidate for Noel Park Ward, Haringey, North London

'WE WANT TO BE WHERE WE CAN, BE FREE'

A Stand Up To Racism convoy took solidarity and supplies to refugees in Calais last weekend. **Dave Sewell** reports on the trip and the migrants' resistance. Photographs by **Guy Smallman**

REFUGEES IN Calais held an angry march last Saturday—and anti-racists from Britain were there to meet them.

A convoy of 15 cars brought supplies and over £6,000 in cash for migrants trapped in the "jungle" in the French port of Calais.

The convoy was organised by the Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) campaign. Everything it took was raised by ordinary people.

Many were surprised by the positive response. Kate from Oxford said, "I put something on Facebook and people have been donating."

Seeing the horrific pictures on TV has galvanised people who might not have had a political bone in their body."

One of the biggest delegations was from Brixton in south London, where trade unionists brought banners to wave the cars off.

It included a group from a local mosque, the Lambeth Masjid and Progressive Community Centre.

Umar told Socialist Worker, "The local community has been very positive about it.

"All of us migrated here, if not this century then in the last one."

The refugees' increasingly defiant struggle to reach safety has inspired solidarity across Europe.

People have donated hundreds of thousands of pounds and so many supplies that NGOs working with the refugees are running out of storage.

Many people rightly demand that more is done.

Hanane, a media worker from west London, said, "The government needs to provide emergency housing for these people. There's always room for our brothers and sisters, we just need to find it."

North London pensioner Susie Helme agreed. "It's nonsense to say there's no space.

"Look at all the homes that are empty, all the land that isn't being used."

SUTR organiser Maz Saleem told Socialist Worker, "People are outraged. It's disgusting how the government treats these people—as if they would risk their lives for a pittance in benefits."

"Britain needs to open the border and let them in."

The convoy stopped at the Notre Dame church, used by charity Secours Catholique as a depot for clothes, tents and other supplies.

The donations made an immediate difference to Kadja from Ethiopia, who could replace her hijab. "I like the clothes," she said with a smile.

TWO MONTHS in the jungle have taken their toll on her. Kadja's arm was wounded from her attempts to board the Channel Tunnel train. "It's very dangerous and I'm very tired," she told Socialist Worker. "My husband is in England, and I want to go there with him."

Michelline Ngongo, a Labour councillor in Islington, north London, read out a message of support from Labour leadership candidate Jeremy Corbyn.

She came to Britain as a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo—and could only stay thanks to trade unionists organising to defend her.

"I left my country very young, and it wasn't easy," explained Michelline. "I had to leave everything behind—my friends, my family."

"Let's help these refugees. It's very difficult to be in that situation."

The convoy headed to a distribution centre near the "jungle" shanty-town that over 3,000 migrants call home.

Activists were moved by the sight of their conditions.

Sudanese refugee Abdullah told Socialist Worker, "We live in a jungle, we have no shelter and we only get



Unloading supplies

'We pushed the door ajar, now we need to push'

POLITICIANS HAVE scapegoated immigrants, including refugees, for decades. This has affected attitudes among working class people.

Clare Moseley from the Wirral joined the convoy. She told Socialist Worker, "When I saw the sort of comments people were leaving under Daily Mail articles online I cried.

"I got the email about the convoy and I was really glad someone was doing something."

Widespread horror at the plight of refugees has shifted attitudes.

Clare brought a carload of contributions from her friends raised at one day's notice.

Student Ruby Hirsch raised funds and supplies around east London.

"Everyone we spoke to saw it as a human crisis," she said. "Even people who've said immigration is a problem want to help. This is a chance for us to push back."

Solidarity

Bridget Chapman, a teacher and founder of anti-racist group Folkestone United, joined activists who brought support to the convoy at a rally near the Channel Tunnel.





Refugees hold a sit-in in front of Calais town hall

fed once a day. I've been here for three months.

"We need homes, and France isn't helping us. You must open the borders and let us in."

Holding a sign saying, "Everyone deserves a safe home", Abdullah was one of up to 500 refugees who marched from the jungle to a sit-in in front of Calais town hall.

They chanted, "No Jungle", "Freedom" and "Movement is a human right".

Activists on the convoy supported their struggle. Cheers, applause and victory signs went up on both sides as the two groups met.

Anti-racists called out, "You are welcome in Britain".

Ibrahim from Eritrea told Socialist Worker, "We want freedom—the

freedom to come to Britain.

"Lots more people would have come on the demonstration but they are too injured from trying to get on the train.

"The police just hit, hit, hit, and they pepper spray you in the eyes. Many people have broken legs or hands."

THE REPRESSION is nothing new to the refugees—and they aren't about to give up.

Maher from Syria said, "We've been bombed in Syria, and we've had problems everywhere we've gone since. We want somewhere we can be free."

His disabled brother Mustafa had come with him, walking almost half the way on crutches.

Keep on organising

STAND UP to Racism plans a second delegation on Saturday 17 October. Other groups have initiatives too (see page 2).

NGOs working with the refugees in the jungle need support—but can also struggle to cope with the influx of goodwill.

If you want to go to Calais, join an organised convoy and contact local organisations such as Auberge des Migrants, Secours Catholique and Salam first.

Storage space is limited. Tents, blankets, sleeping bags and waterproof coats—especially for men—are always wanted.

So are hiking boots and trainers.

One of the most useful things is money. It can go towards bigger infrastructure that's harder to bring such as vans.

It also means you can ask for donations in your workplace or community group—the perfect opportunity to debate the issue and build for protests.

You can send money by PayPal to Stand Up To Racism for it to take to Calais in one go and save bank fees. Donate at bit.ly/1Ld3JyL, download a collection sheet from bit.ly/1O6pgH or find out more at standuptoracism.org.uk



WHAT SOCIALISTS SAY

Should we limit how many migrants are allowed in?

HUNDREDS OF thousands of refugees are trying to escape war and find safety across Europe.

Their awful plight has caused politicians to debate how many of them Britain should let in to the country.

Many people, rightly, think David Cameron was cruel to initially say Britain should take no more refugees.

There's also a common sense view that we have to think about numbers because there must be a limit to how many people a country can sustain.

But there are lots of problems with this idea.

Firstly a huge amount of resources in Britain are being wasted or hoarded by the rich.

The richest people in Britain more than doubled their wealth in the six years to April.

The wealthiest 1,000 are "worth" a staggering £547 billion.

Meanwhile overproduction leads to huge amounts of waste instead of being used to meet the needs of ordinary people—British-born and migrant.

Resources

And "resources" don't have a fixed limit. Some services, such as schools and hospitals, are under terrific strain.

But that's because governments impose cuts and sell-offs instead of investing in them.

The truth is we can expand services to meet need.

More migrants in Britain means more potential workers to fuel an expansion because ordinary people contribute to society—unlike the rich.

What about space?

For some people the idea of tens of thousands of migrants coming to Britain can sound daunting. Where would they all go?

But Britain is certainly not "full up".

There are over 600,000 empty homes in Britain.

Some have been allowed to fall into disrepair.

Labour's Yvette Cooper says Britain should take in 10,000 Syrian refugees—no more, no less

Others are the extra homes of the rich—or those that bankers have snapped up in the hope of making future profit.

And Britain's golf courses take up twice as much space as housing does.

Worries about resources and space are fuelled by another myth—that everyone wants to come to Britain.

Some say that without "tough" controls there will be chaos.

Yet history shows this is not true.

Immigration controls didn't exist in Britain until the early 20th century.

The entire world did not come to Britain.

Those at the top whip up panic about border controls regardless of immigration figures because it is in their interest to do so.

Despise

Immigration controls encourage racism and the idea that ordinary people should fear or despise those who live elsewhere.

They help our rulers scapegoat migrants for the problems we face rather than turning our anger on them.

United struggle can win improvements to our lives, such as better hospitals or housing. But turning on each other makes that struggle weaker.

Socialist Worker is against all border controls.

We think people should be able to go where they like—whatever the reason.

As many migrants and refugees who want to come here should be able to do so.

The idea that politicians imposing savage cuts want to protect resources and services for ordinary people born in Britain is a joke.

They are the threat to our standard of life—not refugees.

it open'

Tunnel entrance.

She told Socialist Worker, "Fear of migrants is highest in places where there isn't much immigration—it's fear of the unknown."

"The right wing media has created this atmosphere of xenophobia and bigotry."

"It's as if people have been afraid to speak in support of migrants, and that atmosphere is changing."

"That's a result of grassroots campaigning."

"We've pushed the door ajar, and now we need to push it open."



Refugees march in Calais

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown.

Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7819 1170 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER }

BRANCH MEETINGS
Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

Will we need violence to achieve socialism?

Thu 17 Sep, 6pm,
The Snug, Ma Cameron's,
6-8 Little Belmont St,
AB10 1JG

BARNSLEY

Why we oppose fracking

Thu 17 Sep, 6.30pm,
YMCA, Blucher St,
S70 1AP

BOLTON

How we beat the anti-union laws in the past

Wed 30 Sep, 6.30pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off
Bradshawgate), BL1 1DY

BRADFORD

Economics of the madhouse—capitalism and the market today

Wed 16 Sep, 7pm,
Equity Centre,
Perkin House,
82 Grattan Rd, BD1 2LU

BRIGHTON

How do we stop climate change?

Wed 16 Sep, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St, BN1 1AF

BRISTOL: NORTH

How we beat the anti-union laws in the past

Thu 17 Sep, 7.30pm,
The Canteen, 5th Floor,
Hamilton House,
80 Stokes Croft, BS1 3QY

BRISTOL: SOUTH

How can we stop war and imperialism?

Wed 16 Sep, 7.30pm,
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

CARDIFF

Marxism and culture

Wed 16 Sep, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace, CF24 4HX

CHELMSFORD

State and revolution

Thu 17 Sep, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Rainsford Rd, CM1 2QL

COLCHESTER

Mental health and capitalism

Tue 15 Sep, 7.30pm,
The Odd One Out,
28 Mersea Rd, CO2 7ET

COVENTRY

In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?

Wed 16 Sep, 7.30pm,
West Indian Centre,
159 Spon St, CV1 3BB

DERBY

Marx, gender and sexuality

Thu 17 Sep, 7pm,
West End Community Centre
(next to Britannia Mill),
Mackworth Rd, DE22 3BL

DONCASTER

Cuts that kill—how can we fight the Tories' assault on disability benefits?

Wed 23 Sep, 7.30pm,
Women's Centre,
21 Cleveland St, DN1 3EH

DUNDEE

The 1945 Labour government

Wed 16 Sep, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd,
DD1 1LL

GLASGOW: NORTH

Hurricane Katrina ten years on—a disaster of race and class

Wed 16 Sep, 7.30pm,
Posh Nosh Cafe (near St Georges Cross Underground),
86 Maryhill Rd, G20 7QB

KIRKCALDY

The 1945 Labour government

Mon 5 Oct, 7.30pm,
Betty Nicol's Pub,
297 High St, KY1 1JL

SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS

JEREMY CORBYN, THE LABOUR PARTY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST AUSTERITY

BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

Wed 16 Sep, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B11 1EQ

CHESTERFIELD

Thu 17 Sep, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library
(enter via Cafe Brower),
New Beetwell St, S40 1QL

DERBY

Thu 24 Sep, 7pm,
West End Community Centre
(next to Britannia Mill), Mackworth Rd,
DE22 3BL

DUDLEY

Wed 16 Sep, 8pm,
The What Centre,
23 Coventry St,
Stourbridge, DY8 1EP

ESSEX

Thu 24 Sep, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Rainsford Rd, CM1 2QL

EXETER

Thu 17 Sep, 7pm,
New Horizon Cafe,
47 Longbrook St, EX4 6AW

GLASGOW: SOUTH

Thu 17 Sep, 7.30pm,
Govanhill Baths,
99 Calder St,
G42 7RA

HUDDERSFIELD

Wed 16 Sep, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade,
HD1 5JP

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Thu 24 Sep, 7pm,
The Swarthmore Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LEICESTER

Wed 23 Sep, 7pm,
Leicester Adult Education College (Belvoir St entrance),
2 Wellington St,
LE1 6HL

LONDON: KINGSTON

Wed 16 Sep, 7pm,
Kingston Quaker Centre,
Fairfield East, KT1 2PT

LONDON: LEWISHAM

Wed 23 Sep, 7.30pm,
West Greenwich Community and Arts Centre,
141 Greenwich High Rd,
SE10 8JA

LONDON: SOUTH

Wed 16 Sep, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,

2b Saltoun Road, (near Effra Rd, facing Windrush Square), SW2 1EP

LUTON

Thu 17 Sep, 7.30pm,
Stockwood Hotel,
41-43 Stockwood Crescent,
(enter via London Rd car park), LU1 3SS

MANCHESTER

Wed 23 Sep, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M25 NS

MEDWAY

Thu 24 Sep, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre,
Conference Room,
272 High St,
Chatham, ME4 4BP

NEWCASTLE

Thu 17 Sep, 7pm,
Broadacre House,
Market St,
NE1 6HQ

PORTRUSH

Mon 12 Oct, 7.30pm,
The Blue Boar pub,
29 Market Close,
BH15 1NE

PORSCHE

Wed 16 Sep, 7.30pm,
Somerset Central,
Rivers St, P054 EY

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

The roots of terrorism
The TTIP of the iceberg

SHEFFIELD: TOWER HAMLETS

Wednesday 23 September

Boy Meets Girl sitcom can help challenge transphobia

By casting a trans actor to play a trans character, the BBC's romantic comedy with a difference breaks positive new ground, argues Tomáš Tengely-Evans

WRITER ELLIOT Kerrigan's new BBC sitcom *Boy Meets Girl* is a funny take on human and sexual relationships.

It follows 26 year old Leo (Harry Hepple) and the "much older" Judy (Rebecca Root), as their relationship develops.

But it's also a significant programme as Judy is one of the first trans characters in a mainstream British sitcom to be played by a trans actor.

"Leo, I was born with a penis," opens the first scene. It will no doubt, rightly, rub all the prudes and puritans up the wrong way.

Having opened with that line, the show then abruptly rewinds to the "beginning".

Leo lives in Newcastle with his parents and brother—not the position anyone closer to 30 wants to be in. He has also just lost his job.

The family dialogues are hilarious—and believable. Mum Pam (Denise Welch) gives a genuinely funny performance.

Leo explains to his horrified mum why he's jobless. "They questioned my honesty... they asked us if I really wanted to be there and I said no," he says.

Family

The scenes with Judy's family are less effective. Her sister walks in declaring "I'm going to my operation too"—a gastric band in Hungary as it turns out. But Judy retorts saying "It's gender bender central in here."

Yes, some people do use that bigoted term. But flippantly throwing it in just helps to normalise it.

It doesn't always get the politics right—but starring a trans character and actor in a mainstream show is a positive step forward.

It can also help challenge the reactionary idea that exists in society—even among some leftists and feminists—that trans women aren't "real women".

The running gag of Leo being fine with it is somewhat laboured—so there's a lot of running out of the restaurant because someone forgot their cardigan.

But it also contains some serious scenes. Leo responds to Judy, "So you were born in the wrong body—what's that like?" Judy replies "It's like being born in a prison—never having a release date."

Despite some problems and the odd, inevitable, unoriginal BBC joke, it makes important points without being po-faced.

Boy Meets Girl
BBC One
9pm, Thursdays



HARRY HEPPLE and Rebecca Root as lead characters Leo and Judy

PICTURE: BBC PICTURES/DIVERSE

Art and the struggle against racism

Tam Joseph, UK School Report (1983)

THIS FREE exhibition is inspired by Jessica and Eric Huntley's Bogle-L'Uouverture Press, the publishing house and bookshop they set up in 1968. Here the radical west London bookshop is recreated to show the period's political history and the battle against racism in Britain.

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Autobahn's new album

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Letter to a Jeremy Corbyn supporter

Jeremy Corbyn's campaign to be Labour leader has inspired people who want a better world—and uniting in struggle can help us to win it, argues Charlie Kimber

JUST LIKE you, I will be anxiously waiting for the Labour leadership results on Saturday. We'll both celebrate if Jeremy Corbyn wins.

If he loses we'll join the outraged hundreds of thousands who will want to know the scale of the fixing and purging that went on.

The surge in support for Jeremy confirms the idea that bitter hatred of austerity will eventually find a focus.

In Scotland the Scottish National Party scooped up some of that feeling. In Greece much of it settled around Syriza. Spain saw the explosive growth of Podemos.

Here Jeremy Corbyn has become the focus. His opposition to war, his lack of personal ambition, and his readiness to join protests and picket lines has endeared him to a new generation.

And some who left Labour over Tony Blair's warmongering and neoliberalism have felt able to return.

Jeremy has confounded those who said Britain is immovably right wing.

The tens of thousands of people who cheered Jeremy at his rallies are a sign of the potential for a mass movement against austerity.

And Corbyn has helped shift the debate leftwards over austerity, migration and refugees.

All of this worries the saner elements of the ruling class.

They want safe parties that support big business, back nuclear weapons and defend an alliance with US imperialism.

You paid your £3 to vote for Jeremy, and your Twitter

account is apparently acceptable to the scrutineers who weed out those suspected of revolutionary thoughts.

I didn't sign up. And I want to remind you why.

If Corbyn is leader he will face a firestorm of opposition from those horrified by any move leftwards.

The Labour Party hierarchy remains dominated by people who think Ed Miliband lost because he was too left wing.

You can get the 20 MPs who really back Jeremy into four cars. There are 210 who don't.

The deputy leader expected to be elected on Saturday, Tom Watson, is well to the right of Jeremy.

The candidate for London mayor may well be too.

Lord Mandelson has advised that the right should not strike immediately.

But, resentful and brooding, they will plot and scheme to undermine and then eject Jeremy.

The leaders of affiliated trade unions remain at the heart of Labour and wield massive influence. If they think Jeremy won't win the next election they are not above destroying him.

They did that to George Lansbury, Labour's most left wing leader to date, in 1935.

For now some remain quiet, some claim to support him.

But if, for example, he makes dumping Trident a central policy some will openly revolt.

There will be massive pressure on Jeremy to compromise and appease the right wing. That's the tradition of Labour leaders who were praised by the left, such as Harold Wilson, and ended up as pro-capitalist as any other.



Syriza's Alexis Tsipras



The real danger is that Corbyn supporters are plunged into internal party struggles rather than struggles at work and in working class areas.

We cannot wait until the next general election before rising up against the Tories.

There are 1,699 days from the leadership result announcement until 7 May 2020, the scheduled date of the next election. In that time the Tories will lay waste to the welfare state, sell off vast chunks of the NHS, and drive thousands more

people on benefits to poverty and despair.

THEY will strengthen state powers, whip up racism and seek to turn the anger in society against Muslims and migrants. We can't give them time to do this.

Whatever happens on Saturday, the crucial question is to march, protest, occupy and strike together against the anti-union laws.

Let's listen to the leadership result together on the demonstration to say "Refugees Welcome Here", and let's protest in Manchester on 4 October at the Tory party conference.

Let's support strikes and other fightbacks, push union leaders to call the action we need, and organise for resistance in workplaces.

Let's take the mood of the Corbyn campaign and use it to raise the fightback against the anti-union laws.

Struggle is the most



important question. Of course Jeremy and his supporters see battles outside parliament as important. But it's a question of emphasis and priority.

We need resistance to beat the Tories—and it's the best route towards political radicalisation.

Labour's last campaign was utterly uninspiring. If you want a Labour government we need much more struggle.

WHEN people fight together they feel more confident and they're much more likely to vote for left wing ideas.

The very worst route will be for Jeremy to take *Guardian* columnist Owen Jones's advice and back off from measures such as leaving Nato.

It will disillusion and demobilise people if, as Jones suggests, issues such as rail renationalisation are "eclipsed by other priorities".

And Jones said that "Concerns about immigration cannot be addressed by sticking our fingers in our ears or by only emphasising the benefits of immigration."

That sounds far too much like Labour, once again, bending to the anti-migrant campaign and it will only help the right.

Boldness and a break from "politics as usual" won Jeremy his support. He must not back down.

We should all support him against the Labour right, but the crucial issue will be the scale and strength of struggle outside parliament.

One touchstone will be how Labour councils act.

Corbyn has called on councils to work together and oppose Tory cuts.

Some fear he could encourage a revolt of councillors refusing to implement cuts.

But that's exactly what we need.

Is Jeremy going to make speeches against austerity while Labour councils ram through measures that will wreck people's lives?

He needs to organise for defiance of the Tories. That will take a massive battle, and encouragement of every bit of resistance.

Some 450 Labour councillors have backed Jeremy. But that's just one in 14. Many of the others have no vision beyond

managing cuts.

They have to be confronted politically and in struggle.

This is not an era of capitalist boom. There is no viable project of hoping that the economy will grow strongly and a big share of the proceeds can be handed out to workers and the poor.

Any real change will need an assault on wealth and power.

Look at Greece. The election of left wing Syriza in January sent hope across the world.

But it faced the brutal financial, economic and political pressure of European Union institutions, the bankers and the rich.

And, fixated on parliament and negotiations with the powerful, it utterly crumbled.

It is now implementing a worse round of austerity than those imposed by its Tory predecessors. Electing a leader with left wing policies was not enough to stop the bosses' blackmail.

It could only have been different if Syriza had based itself on mass mobilisation.

If it had embraced really radical measures such as nationalising banks under workers' control, seizing the wealth of the oligarchs and so on.

In other words we need genuine socialist policies and a socialist movement.

A Corbyn-led Labour government will not face exactly the same situation as Syriza has.

But it will face the hostility of the bosses and the forces they marshal.

If it's serious about fundamental change it will provoke the fury of undemocratic and unaccountable state structures.

They won't just sit back if someone is elected who says he can't conceive of a situation where British troops should be deployed abroad.

And there's no point spending four years striving to get Corbyn into office just to see him destroyed.

Capitalism means poverty, war, racism and environmental destruction. In truth we need to go much further than Jeremy's programme. It looks so radical because of how far Labour has moved rightwards.

We need a movement independent of Labour and a much larger party than presently exists to build towards the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism.

Charlie Kimber is national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party

READ MORE

● Revolutionaries and the Labour Party

Article by Duncan Hallas, bit.ly/1Qdpzqd

● The Labour Party—Myth and Reality

Pamphlet by Duncan Hallas, bit.ly/101OfCK

● The Labour Left's Brightest Star

Article by Paul Foot bit.ly/1JT3eJa

● Arguments for revolution—the case for the Socialist Workers Party

by Joseph Choonara and Charlie Kimber, £3

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THE TORIES' attempt to clamp down on working class resistance to austerity with the Trade Union Bill should dominate discussion at the TUC Congress in Brighton this week.

But union leaders are divided on how to respond.

Two debates underline this division—how to stop the law and what to do if it is passed.

Their responses so far vary. The CWU communication workers' union's TUC motion says we should be "reasserting trade union values".

Whereas the FBU firefighters' union calls on the TUC to "prepare for sustained, joint industrial action across our movement".

Other union leaders are just looking to wring concessions from the Tories so they can adapt to working within the new legislation.

Ballots

The senior civil servants' FDA wants bosses to give workers phone and computer access for ballots as this "would considerably enhance turnout and participation".

Tory business secretary Sajid Javid refuses to consider having electronic ballots.

While the Bill represents a massive attack, it wouldn't make strikes impossible.

The point of union legislation is to make union leaders police strikes better—union laws are only effective because unions obey them.

Mass industrial action and unions defying the laws can make them unworkable.

Union leaders aren't locked up and funds aren't seized when workers walk out unofficially.

The Unite union's motion echoes its leader Len McCluskey's call to break the law if necessary.

It argues the TUC should lead a "militant" and "imaginative" campaign and

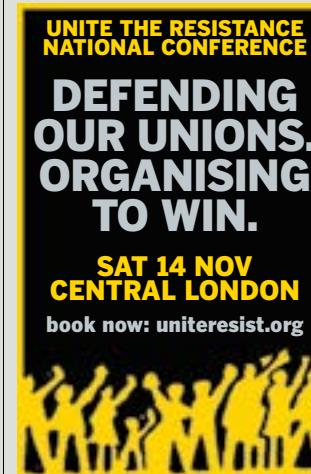


Unions need to defy the law – not just talk about it

To defeat the Tory Trade Union Bill we will need more from union leaders than fighting rhetoric, says Tomáš Tengely-Evans



THE TORIES won't be beaten with stunts like this



give "maximum political, financial and industrial support to those unions that find themselves outside the law".

Meanwhile, the Unison union has urged a fight against the removal of check off—the automatic deduction of union members' subs from wages—"by any means necessary".

It's an indication that some unions are willing to defy the new laws. PCS union general secretary Mark

Anti-union laws are only effective when union leaders obey them

Serwotka has said, "We need to commit ourselves to have tens of thousands picketing in solidarity when the Tories criminalise the first strike or bus in scabs."

But the union leaders need to encourage and support workers to take "legal" or "illegal" action—not just support it after it happens.

Another argument is about Labour. Many union leaders hope to use the Jeremy Corbyn campaign to rehash their failed mantra of waiting for a Labour government.

Failed

Their strategy failed specifically on trade union rights last time round, when they pinned their hopes on Ed Miliband repealing the union laws.

The FBU rightly says that the aim "must not be calling token protests ... but building a mass movement with the clear aim of defeating these attacks".

We must use the TUC demo on 4 October as a springboard for more action and turn the lobby of parliament on 2 November into a mass protest.

And we can't let them throw away opportunities to build the fightback.

There was no reason for Unite not to have brought London bus workers out on the day of the Tube shutdowns.

The differences among the union leaders show there's a potential to push them into action—and build the sort of movement that will give the Tories a kicking.



MANCHESTER SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2015 MANCHESTER SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2015 MANCHESTER



YES
TO WORKERS' RIGHTS

NO
TO AUSTERITY

NATIONAL RALLY AND MARCH ON THE CONSERVATIVE CONFERENCE

MANCHESTER SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2015

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Assemble Oxford Road from All Saints Park southwards

1.00 PM

Opening rally

1.30 PM

March through the city on a route that circles the Conference Centre, ending at Deansgate/Whitworth Street for coach pick-ups and dispersal

A FESTIVAL OF RESISTANCE

The People's Assembly and friends from supporting organisations and institutions will host a series of events throughout the week.

Topics will include—trade unions, welfare, racism, housing, Islamophobia, war, education, climate, media, TTIP, transport, NHS, economy, Scotland and Europe.

These meetings will run alongside a series of direct actions and protests all over Manchester and around the Tory party conference.

Evenings will see a full spectrum of entertainment including huge gigs featuring international artists, "Laugh them out of town" comedy nights, spoken word and other performances.

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Western bombs and civil war lie behind Syria crisis

Dave Sewell looks at how Western imperialism and the crushing of the Syrian revolution are now forcing thousands to flee—and what the real alternative is

 **SYRIA'S BLOODY** civil war is fuelling the worst refugee crisis this century—and Western bombing is only adding to the carnage.

More than half of all Syrians are now refugees. Out of a population of 23 million before the war, more than four million fled to neighbouring countries by July of this year, and almost eight million had been displaced within Syria.

Only around 200,000 were believed to have reached Europe. That's a sixth of the amount in Lebanon alone.

The number accepted by Britain would fit on one carriage of a train.

The atrocities committed by the sectarian Isis militias have forced many to flee. And it suits Tory politicians to blame Isis for migrant deaths. But it's only part of the problem.

Crushed

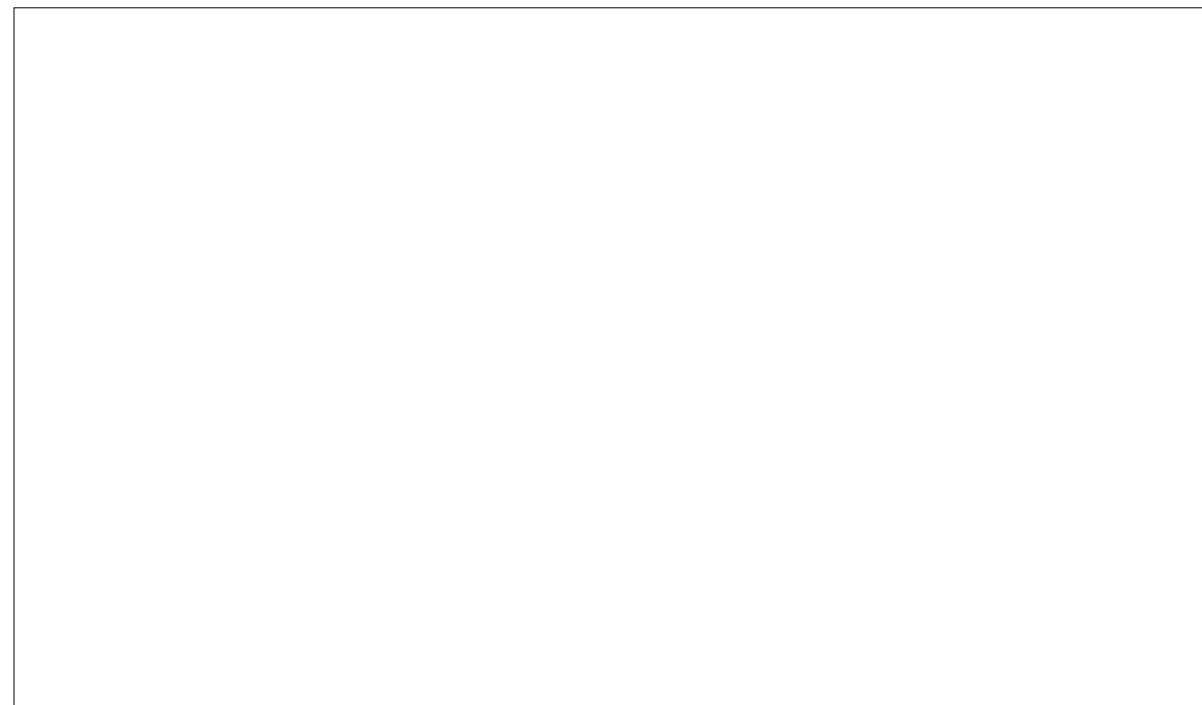
Isis's influence grew in the chaos and desperation after dictator Bashar al-Assad crushed the Syrian revolution. At one point the West wanted to bomb Assad. Now it sees him as a lesser evil. But Assad's violence against ordinary Syrians continues.

Regime fighter jets carried out one of their deadliest airstrikes yet on Sunday 16 August, killing over 100 people at a market in a Damascus suburb. They have previously targeted bread queues and hospitals.

Both Isis and Assad are using banned cluster bombs, according to a new report issued last week.

These scatter unexploded devices over a wide area where they can kill long after their initial use. Children make up to 92 percent of recorded deaths by cluster bombs since 2010.

In response to the refugee crisis,



THE BLOODY civil war has devastated Syrian society

some politicians argue Britain should join the US-led military intervention in Syria.

But the US and its allies have already spent a year dropping thousands of bombs on Syria and Iraq—bombs that don't distinguish between Isis fighters and their victims.

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has counted 225 civilians killed by coalition airstrikes. They included 65 children, some already refugees of Assad or Isis.

Presented with this report, the US has acknowledged only two of the deaths.

Research project AirWar has compiled media and military reports to get a count of between 518 and 1,353 civilians reported killed by the intervention in Syria and Iraq.

Given the difficulty of accurate reporting inside Syria, these are likely to be underestimates,

It was the West's devastating war on Iraq that created Isis. After the invasion of 2003, occupying forces gutted Iraqi society—then backed sectarian militias and corrupt politicians to undermine a united resistance.

US bombs and atrocities against Sunni Muslim Arabs by some of its

Shia and Kurdish allies helped Isis recruit. At the same time they kill more people who've already lived through four years of horror.

The memory of the movement against the Iraq war pushed MPs to vote against joining the assault on Syria in 2003.

To support the Syrian people we have to open the borders to refugees—and make sure David Cameron doesn't add to the slaughter they are fleeing.

Read the SNHR report at tinyurl.com/p4znpwz

Protests show 'pockets of hope' for an alternative

 **SYRIAN socialist Joseph Dahir** spoke to Socialist Worker about what the solution in Syria could be.

Syrian society has been devastated.

In areas held by the regime or Isis it is almost impossible to protest.

But despite this there have been protests this summer against both.

A number of demonstrations took place in August and July in the rural areas around Aleppo, Damascus

and elsewhere.

In a small town of Al-Atarib in rural Aleppo, held by the Al Qaida-linked Jabhat al Nusra, there have been several demonstrations against its authoritarianism.

Thousands of people marched in the town of Saqba, in rural Damascus, for the aims of the Syrian revolution on 7 August.

A week later a group of women there protested for the release of political prisoners held by the Army of Islam organisation.

Joseph Dahir

Dozens held a sit-in at the offices of the local council of Douma near Damascus in July after a councillor was abducted.

And even in so-called loyalist areas, there

have been protests over the regime's treatment of soldiers and unpaid compensation to dead soldier's families.

One protest demanded the execution of Assad's cousin's son—a well-known thug—after he murdered an army colonel.

These people aren't supporting the revolution, but they are worth reaching out to.

They are tired of the war, the social crisis and the Assad family treating Syria as

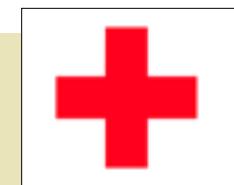
their own property.

People under attack from every direction are still fighting for the aims of the Syrian revolution—for democracy and social justice.

We should support them.

This doesn't mean that I see any victory of the revolution in any near future, but these are pockets of hope.

When there are democratic mass protests in Iraq and Lebanon, it's clear that the process that started in 2011 isn't over.



Water crisis risks epidemics

 EPIDEMICS could devastate Syria's two biggest cities Aleppo and Damascus as the civil war disrupts water supplies.

Patrick Hamilton from the Red Cross warned that "there is the risk" that the water network could "fail on a permanent basis, on an irreparable basis".

This creates a risk of "huge epidemics" of typhoid or cholera that could "end up wiping out large segments of population".



US pushes for ground troops

 US secretary of state John Kerry (above) said last week he expects to see a ground invasion of Syria.

The US is hesitant about putting boots on the ground after its defeat in Iraq.

But its regional allies could invade. "There will need to be people on the ground," Kerry said.

"There will be an appropriate moment."

US ally Saudi Arabia's invasion of Yemen has already killed more than 2,000 people.



CIA's secret hit squad drones

 THE CIA is running its own secret drone programme in Syria.

The drones help special forces track down and assassinate "high value targets" such as Junaid Hussain, an Isis hacker from Britain. They're armed and sometimes carry out airstrikes themselves.

IN BRIEF
Unions pour cold water on privateers

THE GMB, Unite and Unison unions are set to ballot 1,600 of their members working for Northumbrian Water, and Essex and Suffolk Water—which Northumbrian owns.

Water bosses are attacking workers' final salary pension scheme.

The ballot begins on Friday of next week.

Workers won't cater to bosses

THE UNITE union is balloting catering workers on North Sea oil rigs for strikes and action short of strike.

Catering Offshore Trade Association bosses had signed up to a two-year pay deal, but haven't delivered on a 1.3 percent rise for the second year.

The ballot is set to run until mid-October.

Food workers get a piece of the dough

FAST FOOD workers scored a victory as Pizza Express, Giraffe and a number of other fast food chains announced on Thursday of last week that it would stop stealing workers' tips.

Pizza Express bosses had been using an "admin fee" to skim 8 percent off tips paid by card. But they were forced to drop the fee after protests outside Pizza Express branches by the Unite union.

Unite has called a rally for fair tips on Monday 28 September.

• Fast Food Rights national organising day, Wednesday 16 September, 10am-6pm, TUC Congress House, 23-28 Great Russell St, London WC1B 3LS

Further strikes for security scanners

GMB UNION members who work as security scanner operators at Stansted Airport, London, were set to strike this weekend.

Privateer Mitie has only offered workers a 1.5 percent pay deal despite a 13.5 percent rise in profits.

Workers previously struck on 23 and 31 August.

Protest in support of Sotheby's Two

AROUND 30 people protested outside a Sotheby's car auction in Battersea, south London, on Monday of this week in support of sacked United Voices of the World union members Barbara and Percy. They were victimised by auction house Sotheby's.

MORE ONLINE

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JUSTICE FOR SHEKU BAYOH CAMPAIGN

Marchers demand justice

HUNDREDS marched through Kirkcaldy, Fife, last Sunday demanding for justice for Sheku Bayoh and his family.

The march marked 18 weeks since Sheku died under police restraint.

His family have mounted a justice campaign.

They have faced many difficulties with Police Scotland and the so-called watchdog PIRC which is

investigating his death. But they have received support from people in Kirkcaldy and across Scotland, which was reflected on the march.

Speakers from political parties, trade unions and other groups all stated their support.

This support has put the authorities on the defensive. Keeping this pressure up can force justice for Sheku.

Ian Waddell and Lici Kopiej



PICTURE: STEPHEN MCBROOM

WALES
TRANSPORT

Bus workers say, 'No more lies, give us a rise'

by PETER EDWARDS

BUS WORKERS in Cardiff struck against low pay on Wednesday and Saturday of last week.

Only 20 buses out of 180 made it onto the road on Saturday.

They were staffed by supervisors, trainees, two scabs and a handful of Unison union members.

Striking Unite union members have rejected their bosses' pay offer of 3 percent in 2015 and 2 percent next year.

Strength

They are demanding 4 percent from the bus company, which is owned by Cardiff council.

And their action is growing in strength—the second walkout on Saturday was much stronger than the first on Wednesday.

Workers were jubilant on the picket lines and were boosted by obvious public support.

ENERGY WORKERS

Meter readers have the power to stop cuts

by DAVE SEWELL

AROUND 500 EDF energy workers struck at sites in London and across southern and western England on Wednesday of last week.

The Unite union members are fighting attacks on their pay and conditions.

Bosses' plans to roll out new smart meters would mean longer hours, the threat of job losses and pay cuts of up to £6,000 a year.

Around 40 workers rallied outside the EDF site in Bromley in south east London. Unite rep Steve Ricket told



PICTURE: JULIE SHERRY

Cars tooted their horns in support and a total stranger brought drivers a box of hot pies.

Twenty bus workers marched to the National Museum of Wales picket lines as part of a "picket swap".

The PCS union members went to the National Museum's St Fagan's site for a demonstration (see right).

Around 300 bus workers assembled in Callaghan Square at lunchtime. They marched to the National Museum for

a strike rally to chants of "No more lies, give us a rise".

All the staff in one coffee shop stopped work and came out onto the street clapping.

Unite plans further 24-hour strikes on 23 September and 11 October and three 48-hour strikes 19 September and 1 and 17 October.

The union is targeting days with international rugby matches to cause maximum disruption.

Send messages of support to wales@unitetheunion.org

CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS

Museum strikers exhibit defiance against pay cuts

by MARIANNE OWENS

NATIONAL MUSEUM of Wales workers struck for a further two days last weekend.

It was part of a programme of rolling industrial action by the PCS union members.

Bosses are trying to scrap weekend and bank holiday premium pay—the lowest paid face losing up to £3,000 a year.

Around 60 workers from across Wales joined a noisy march through the St Fagan's Museum of Welsh Life in

South Wales. Bosses had opened the open air site for a food festival. Workers at the Big Pit mining museum in South Wales struck last Sunday forcing bosses to close the site.

Send messages of support to PCS assistant branch secretary Hannah Lawson at hannahflawson@hotmail.com Complain to museum director general David Anderson at david.anderson@museumwales.ac.uk Donate to the hardship fund using reference PCS national hardship fund, sort code 08 60 01, account number 20146960

EDUCATION

School's out for September

NUT union members at Bluecoat School in Coventry struck on Thursday of last week against attacks on working conditions.

There was a great turnout on the picket line and lots of support from members of other trade unions, parents and pupils. Workers were set to strike again on Thursday of this week. *Chris Denson*

Send messages of support to glenmynott110@btinternet.com

Teachers at Winterbourne International Academy in South Gloucestershire

were set to strike on Thursday of this week.

The NUT and NASUWT unions have said workers could take up to six days of strikes after a "breakdown in relations" between teachers and bosses.

Workers say that new boss Beverley Martin has blamed them for a poor Ofsted watchdog rating and that they face worse conditions.

A DAY of action has been called in defence of English for Speakers of Other Languages (Esol) for Wednesday of next week.

OBITUARIES

Bernie Passingham 1925-2015

BERNIE Passingham was a leading figure in the 1968 Ford women sewing-machinists' strike.

Bernie supported the 187 women workers, whose fight for equal pay was the most important women's strike since the 1888 match women's strike.

The Dagenham women were joined by the 195

women who worked at Ford's Halewood plant on Merseyside.

Bernie began working for Ford in the 1950s and eventually became a member of the T&G union's executive.

Bernie was a modest and determined man, with a great sense of humour.

Trade union activists today can learn much from his example.

Sabby Sagall

A longer version is available on socialistworker.co.uk



Strikers picket EDF's site in Bromley, south east London

Socialist Worker, "They just reneged on our agreement."

"It means guys who've worked here over 30 years are suddenly being told they have to work early mornings, evenings and weekends."

Union officer Onay Kasab said longer strikes could be necessary to win.

Picket Mike said, "Rather than one-day strikes I'd want to do walkouts of a number of days together—I think that's more effective."

TRAFFIC WARDENS

Wardens' strike just the ticket to resist

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

TRAFFIC WARDENS in Camden, central London, walked out for four days on Wednesday of last week.

The Unison union members are fighting bosses' attacks on pay, terms and conditions.

Unison rep Jeremy told Socialist Worker, "The main issue for us is pay—what we get is well below the London Living Wage."

"Yet NSL made £60 million in profits last year."

The union has been demanding £10.50 an hour and better terms and conditions for the last three years.

Workers threw out bosses' initial offer of £9.15 in January and are now demanding £9.50 an hour.

But the dispute isn't just about pay. Jason said, "Every day I go out there's a risk I'll be assaulted. I go home stressed and tired."

"That's because there's a popular misconception that we work for commission."

"We wouldn't get so much abuse if people knew that we don't, but the council isn't doing much about that."

Jim told Socialist Worker, "You currently don't get sick pay for the first three days."

"But that includes workers



SUPPORTERS JOINED strikers on the picket line last week

PICTURE: TOM KAY

on 'code red', who get hurt while working outside."

The walkout was solid with only a few workers going in.

Jim said, "Management have tried to use threats of redundancy and disciplinaries against reps."

"But we're solid."

Workers descended on the

old town hall in Camden on the second day of their strike and held a militant rally.

FBU union London regional secretary Paul Embrey told the rally, "If anyone is not aware of your dispute then they soon will be. We'll make them aware."

To chants of, "Low pay, no

way" workers marched on Camden town hall.

More strike dates are expected to be announced soon. Every trade unionist should back this dispute.

● Solidarity details at bit.ly/1NXLm6P

● Workers' names have been changed

UNISON UNION

Mood for change boosts John Burgess campaign

THE ELECTION for general secretary of the Unison union is underway. And the campaign of John Burgess, a left wing challenger to the current leadership, has got off to a flying start.

John is branch secretary of Barnet Unison in north London.

He has already received almost half of the 25 branch nominations he needs to be on the ballot.

And more are expected to come in this week.

Activists have until 9 October to hold a quorate union branch meeting and win backing for John's campaign.

At a meeting of the union's national executive last week current general

secretary Dave Prentis won over half of the votes cast in a nomination vote.

The fact that current national officer Heather Wakefield received no votes underlined the widespread mood in the union to see a lay member elected general secretary.

Regional organising meetings for John's campaign are in place.

Activists in the West Midlands were set to hold one in Birmingham on Thursday of this week.

And there is an urgent need for individual donations to support John's campaign.

● Go to John's campaign blog at johnburgess4gensec.blogspot.co.uk

COUNCILS

Doncaster—round one won

A 10-DAY strike by Doncaster council workers planned for Friday of last week was suspended at the 11th hour following a dramatic climbdown by bosses.

Over 200 workers from the Unison, Unite and GMB unions were set to strike.

But Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC) bosses requested emergency talks and agreed to withdraw a threat to change shift patterns.

The council promised genuine and open consultation on "modernisation" with unions.

Jim Board, branch secretary of Unison in Doncaster, said, "We set out eight conditions and the council has agreed to seven and a half of them."

"This is a fantastic result and couldn't have been achieved without workers' determination and unity. We have won round one—now we

get ready for round two."

One worker said, "Our confidence is sky high now.

"We've taken a kicking for the last five to six years and some have left the unions. Now we can get them back."

■ THERE IS an important protest against the assault on Barnet's libraries set for this Saturday. Assemble 10.15am, East Finchley Library N9 BB, 11.15am Church End Library N3 1SA, marching to North Finchley Library N2 9BB for 12.30pm.

■ THE SCOTTISH Local Government Committee of Unison is asking members to accept a two-year pay offer.

It asks workers to accept 1.5 percent this year and 1 percent next year.

Glasgow's branch is urging members to reject.

ARMS PROTEST



Protesters targeting the jeep

PICTURE: MIRIAM SCHARF

Road block over arms fair

PROTESTERS blocked a jeep on its way to an arms fair in east London on Monday of this week.

The action was against arms sales to Israel. Graffiti on the jeep, owned by Austrian firm MAN, read,

"Arms tested on children". A masked "Tony Blair" in an orange jumpsuit chained himself to the truck.

Testimonies from families in Gaza were read from the lorry carrying the jeep.

Miriam Scharf

TUBE WORKERS

Tube walkout called off—but threat of cuts remains

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

THE RMT union has suspended strikes set for this week on the London Underground. The union said bosses made new proposals at talks.

Tube workers are in dispute over working conditions from the introduction of Night Tube and a major reorganisation of stations.

The RMT said the new proposals include bosses backtracking on a plan to force station staff to work anywhere on the line at 24 hours' notice.

Additional posts may also be created, which would be a significant shift.

However, there are still

issues in dispute and Tube bosses still plan huge cuts that could result in action in the future. The union is seeking a written agreement.

Bosses have embarked on a major cuts drive and strikes could have blunted the attack.

Tory London mayor Boris Johnson demanded the cuts and has staked his reputation on driving them through.

Johnson insisted that Night Tube would begin this Saturday, 12 September.

The dispute stopped this. Two solid walkouts by all four Tube unions shut down the network this summer.

They were a sharp rebuke to Johnson and showed workers' power to beat back the attacks.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS



A worker on the protest

PICTURE: STEWART HUME

Blockade over blacklisting

PROTESTERS blocked roads in Liverpool on Friday of last week because a construction firm will not hire blacklisted workers.

Carillion is the main contractor building the Royal Liverpool University Hospital.

It denies blacklisting workers, saying it had "voluntarily stopped" the practice by one of its former subsidiaries in 2004.

The Blacklist Support Group and the Unite union

organised the protest.

Roy Bentham of the Blacklist Support Group said Carillion was a "discredited company".

"The only way they can limit this damage is by giving the workforce pay and conditions in line with national agreements and taking on blacklisted workers now," he said.

Demonstrators stopped traffic near the hospital but let nurses through.

Simon Basketter



TAKE ON TORIES IN MANCHESTER

With a mass TUC march and a week of demonstrations, David Cameron can expect an angry welcome when he heads north next month, says **Nick Clark**

WITH LESS than a month to go before the Tory Party conference, activists are preparing to turn Manchester into a rebel city.

The Tories will be jubilant at their first conference since their election victory in May.

They will use the occasion to launch even more vicious attacks on the working class, the poor, disabled people, Muslims and migrants.

That's why it's important to make sure they are met with huge opposition on the streets.

Campaigners have been working to make sure that's exactly what happens.

The TUC has called a "No to austerity, yes to workers' rights" march on Sunday 4 October. And the People's Assembly has a "Take back Manchester" series of events from 3 to 7 October. It includes rallies, protests and cultural events.

Young activists have been congregating in Piccadilly Gardens in the centre of Manchester to organise protests—including a rooftop protest in July.

Protests

Emma is one of them. She told Socialist Worker, "I do 'party protests' with music. We've protested against the banking system and banning legal highs.

"And we've blasted out the Nazi EDL with house music."

Now Emma has got involved with the People's Assembly campaign group in Manchester to prepare for the Tories' arrival next month.

The People's Assembly plans to protest outside Manchester Piccadilly train station on Saturday 3 October to greet Tory delegates.

Emma wants to go further. She said, "We want to do a roadblock with music on the main roads coming into the city. We want it to be a bit like carnival."

"It's going to be a



TRADE UNIONISTS marching on a Tory conference in Manchester

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

GET INVOLVED

- For details of the march on Sunday 4 October, go to tuc.org.uk/NoToAusterity
- For information about the other events, go to thepeopleassembly.org.uk

protest against David Cameron coming into the city. We don't see why this man who's caused so much upset in our city should be let in.

"So when they're coming in we're going to block them."

Activists have made sure

to combine the fight against austerity with the fight against racism.

Ameen Hadi is one of them. He told Socialist Worker, "On 6 October, Theresa May will be speaking, attacking migrants and Muslims. So we've organised

a protest outside, and a rally after that.

"The idea is to bring different strands of the anti-racist movement together. It's not just about migrants, but also around Islamophobia and police racism."

Disabled People Against Cuts (Dpac) will also be organising protests and flashmobs.

Manchester Dpac activist Matthew Felton told Socialist Worker, "We're going to have a protest outside the conference while Iain Duncan Smith makes his speech—we want to say he's a murderer."

But the main focus has to be the TUC march in Manchester on 4 October.

Fight

Trade unionists and campaigners across Britain need to fight to fill up transport to make the demo a success.

Simon Hall, a Unison union member and activist from North Tyneside People's Assembly, says people are signing up from across the north east of England.

He told Socialist Worker, "There's a coach nearly full from Newcastle—and there's transport from Hartlepool and Berwick. But we need to push for more."

"There's a rally organised by the People's Assembly, the Northern Region TUC and Public Service Alliance about the Trade Union Bill. We're going to use this to raise the profile of 4 October."

A successful TUC march will be an opportunity to show the strength of united opposition to the Tories—and put the working class at the centre of the fightback.

Manchester People's Assembly activist Mark Krantz said, "The Tories are coming to Manchester to launch further attacks on the working class. A huge march will show we have the power not only to stop them, but to start to create a better world."

UNION BILL

Stop this attack on our rights

THE TORIES' Trade Union Bill 2015 is "seeking to undermine the rights of all working people", human rights groups argued on Monday of this week.

Amnesty, Liberty and the British Institute of Human Rights slammed it as a "major attack on civil liberties". They said, "We owe so many

TUC leader Frances O'Grady

of our employment protections to trade unions and we join them in opposing this bill."

The bill's second reading in parliament could take place as soon as next week.

Consultations on the bill were set to end on Wednesday of this week.

These cover ballot thresholds in some public services, using agency workers to scab, and "tackling intimidation". They could bring even more draconian proposals.

Union leaders are divided over how to respond (see page 15). At the TUC this week they should be preparing for war.

Unite the Resistance is calling on workers to take action on the day of the second reading, including gathering at parliament at 5pm.

Go to uniteresist.org